

Remarks

Rejection of the claims under 35 USC §112:

Claims 8 and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite because, while the claims recite that at least on of the R groups is an electron withdrawing group, the remaining R groups lack definition. Applicants have amended the claims to obviate the rejection. Specifically, Applicants have amended the claims to recite that the R groups may selected from the group consisting of: hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aralkyl, aralkenyl, or aralkynyl, heteroatom (N, O, S), and carbonyl group. Support for the amendment can be found in the specification on page 32 lines 2-4. In view of the amendment, Applicants request reconsideration of this §112 rejection.

Rejection of the claims under 35 USC §102:

Claims 7, 8, 19, and 23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nishimura et al (Yajugaku Zasshi 1964). Applicants have amended the claims to obviate the rejection. Specifically, Applicants have amended claims 7 and 19 to recite reactive groups “independently selected from the group consisting of: isothiocyanate, isocyanate, acyl azide, acid halide, O-acyl urea, N-hydroxysuccinimide esters, succinimide esters, p-nitrophenyl ester, o-nitrophenyl ester, pentachlorophenyl ester, pentafluorophenyl ester, carbonyl imidazole, carbonyl pyridinium, carbonyl dimethyl aminopyridinium, amide, maleimide, urea, sulfonyl chloride, aldehyde, ketone, epoxide, carbonate, alkyl halide, arylhalide, imidoester, and anhydride”. Support for the amendment can be found in the specification on page 5 lines 15-22, page 6 lines 16-22, and page 6 lines 24-27. In view of the amendment, Applicants request reconsideration of this §102 rejection.

The Examiner's rejections are now believed to be overcome by this response to the Office Action. In view of Applicants' amendment and arguments, it is submitted that claims 7, 8, 19, and 20 should be allowable.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being
transmitted to the USPTO on this date: April 12, 2007.

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